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GREEK AND ROMAN MYTHOLOGY

The series to which Professor Fox's book belongs¹ is under the editorial management of Louis Herbert Gray and is to consist of thirteen volumes. Three of these besides the volume under review have already appeared: VI, *Indian, Iranian*, by A. B. Keith and A. J. Carnoy respectively; IX, *Oceanic*, by R. B. Dixon; and X, *North American*, by H. B. Alexander. The purpose of the series is excellent. Not only specialists in the different fields but also students of comparative religion will find here well-written accounts of the myths of the races. There is nothing else on so comprehensive a scale in English.

At the end of each volume are some notes and a bibliography, but no index. One of the commonplaces of reviewers is a lament over the lack of indexes. This wail is so frequently heard that I hesitate to raise it again. But the fact remains that the place of the index-maker shall be high in heaven, and its omission from the volumes of a series of this kind constitutes an almost incomprehensible editorial idiosyncrasy. To be sure the thirteenth volume is to be an index of the whole work, and when that appears the difficulties which now beset the reader (especially the student of comparative religion) when he attempts to gain access to the material collected in the volumes published will be less formidable; but each volume should have had an index of names and especially an elaborate and detailed subject index, which would give a short cut to all the myths bearing on any religious conception. Presumably such a subject index will form the chief part of Volume XIII. Otherwise the usefulness of the series will be enormously impaired. It will be like a fair and goodly mansion without entrances or connecting corridors.

Professor Fox has done his part of the work with distinction. He writes easily and well, and his accounts of the myths are strikingly lucid. He has moreover the faculty of selecting from a tangle of conflicting versions that form of the legend which lies closest to the original religious idea from which it sprang. It is however a matter of regret that he has not devoted more space to the elucidation of the ultimate significance of the myths. He almost always says something on this phase of the stories, and the explanations suggested are sound; but the value of the volume would have been much greater if this interpretative element,

¹ "The Mythology of All Races," Vol. I, *Greek and Roman*. By William Sherwood Fox. Boston: Marshall Jones Co., 1916. lxii+354 pages; with 63 plates and 11 text figures. \$6.00.

which is after all the important thing, had been increased and the purely narrative material reduced.

After an introductory essay on the Greek myths (pp. xli-lx), in which he is at his best, the author divides his work into three parts: I, "Myths of the Beginning, the Heroes and the Afterworld"; II, "The Greek Gods"; III, "The Mythology of Ancient Italy." This arrangement of the material is logical and economical. The stories of the local heroes clear the way for the accounts of the gods and make them more intelligible.

Of the 328 pages in the book proper 307 are devoted to Greek, 21 to Roman, mythology. Moreover, much of the material included in the Roman section falls under the head of religion rather than of mythology. Undoubtedly, the store of Roman mythology is much smaller than that of Greek, but the difference is not so great as is indicated by these figures. Not only more Roman myths should have been treated, but some of the subjects touched on merited fuller discussion—for example, the cult of Diana on page 294 and that of Fortuna on page 295. There is in fact in the Roman section a lack of the genial sympathy that makes the discussion of the Greek myths such good reading. Yet the history of Roman religious thought, as it developed in the successive stages of indigenous pandemonism, of Etruscan, Greek, and oriental influence, furnishes a vast amount of material of first importance for a series, the aim of which is to clarify our knowledge of religious consciousness.

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COE'S PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION

Investigators of the psychology of religion have been equipped in such different ways and have had their attention upon such different aspects of the subject that there has long been need of some survey and report of the work as a whole. Professor Coe's present volume¹ is planned to meet this need; in his own words, the book is "intended primarily as a handbook for beginners in the psychological analysis of religion"; and it has as its foremost concern "to make clear the nature of the problems, the kind of data, the methods of research, and the achieved results." This purpose has been excellently attained, having

¹ *The Psychology of Religion*. By George Albert Coe. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1916. xvii+365 pages. \$1.50.